

October 2, 2006
Regular Session

Minutes

Members present

Brady Wooten- Chairman
Allen Sneed- Vice- Chairman
Leon Casstevens- Commissioner
Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner
D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present

Eric Williams- Interim County Manager
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board
James Graham-County Attorney

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order. Attorney Graham had the invocation. The Board had the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Wooten asked that the agenda be amended to add EMS and the jail.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Swaim seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Public Comments

Chairman Wooten asked for public comments. There were none.

EMS-capital purchase

Brent Hawks, EMS Supervisor, presented a request to purchase two Defib Monitors at a cost of \$47,489.15; a savings of \$8,510 from the \$56,000 budgeted.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to approve the purchase of the two Defib Monitors. Commissioner Swaim seconded.**

Chairman Wooten stated the purchase should be put off until the budget issues are resolved.

The Board voted 4-1. Chairman Wooten opposed.

Library-personnel

John Hedrick, Director of NW Regional Library, informed the Board that the Librarian at East Bend, Erin Haynes had resigned. They would like to advertise the position but there is not enough money to cover the benefits. Mr. Hedrick stated that two years ago Erin Haynes opted out of the insurance program to help save money and to allow East Bend a book budget. Mr. Hedrick asked the Board if they would allocate the money to pay for the insurance (\$6,663).

The Board discussed the previous cuts to the libraries' budgets.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to cover the \$6,663 for insurance. Commissioner Swaim seconded.**

Commissioner Sneed publicly thanked Ms. Haynes for making the sacrifice helping save the library money.

Chairman Wooten stated this is another budget issue that needed to be resolved.

The Board voted 4-1. Chairman Wooten opposed.

JobLinks-report/update

Dwight Morris, Executive Director, reported to the Board that Yadkin County has achieved a Level II Charter with the help of many agencies. He stated Yadkin JobLink will be recognized at the Workforce Development Conference in Greensboro and will be awarded \$25,000 from the State. The organizations will start working on obtaining the Level III Charter which would earn another \$25,000 from the State.

Commissioner Swaim informed the Board that Dwight Morris would be leaving for another position. Commissioner Swaim commended Mr. Morris on a job well done and wished him well in his new endeavors.

Finance/Administration- contract

Mr. Williams introduced Robert Segal, CPA, who is devoted to assisting local governments reduce expenditures and increase revenues. Mr. Segal works on a percentage basis, but only if he finds a saving and the county implements the plan. Mr. Williams strongly encouraged the Board to hire Mr. Segal's services.

Mr. Segal reviewed the history of his company and the services offered.

The Board discussed the contracts.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to approve the letters of agreement for any and all revenues and expenses, NC sales/use tax reallocation and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. Commissioner Swaim seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Cooperative Extension-contract

Mr. Williams presented a Memo of Understanding revising the payroll for Cooperative Extension.

Mr. Loudermilk stated the Memo of Understanding has been revised and the only change is that one check can be written instead of individual ones.

Mr. Williams stated this would be implemented November 1, 2006.

***Commissioner Casstevens made the motion to approve the Memo of Understanding for Cooperative Extension. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Chairman Wooten called for a break.

Social Services- NACo Prescription Program

Eddie Wooten, DSS Director, reviewed the prescription program offered through NACo. The program is designed for uninsured and under-insured. There are no costs associated with the program. The county would need to

designate an administrator. Mr. Wooten stated the Board should expect a large response.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Wooten if he would work with the health department to set up the program.

***Commissioner Casstevens made the motion to approve the prescription program with Mr. Williams coordinating with outside agencies about the program. Commissioner Phillips seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Water/Sewer-project updates

Randy Darden, Arcadis, reviewed the County's ongoing water and sewer projects.

Mr. Williams stated the LGC had the information needed for the loan. He informed the Board that the letters for the easements are being worked on and should be sent out within the week.

The Board inquired about the Hoots Road sewer project and estimated costs.

Mr. Darden stated that project should be around \$3.5 million.

Mr. Williams stated that at the October 16th meeting there would be capital projects ordinances which need to be signed for these projects.

Chairman Wooten asked for a closed session to consult with the attorney.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to go in closed session per G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), consult with the attorney. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 5-0. The Board asked Randy Darden, Arcadis, to stay for the closed session.**

***Commissioner Casstevens made the motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Swaim seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

The Board directed Ms. Vestal to contact West Yadkin School about using the multi-purpose room for a community meeting on October 12th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Chairman Wooten informed everyone that letters would be sent out to the property owners along Hwy 21 regarding easements.

Commissioner Sneed asked about reductions in fire insurance rates.

David Matthews, East Bend fireman, stated in order for a reduction in fire rates, a fire department had to be rated.

Commissioner Sneed thanked Mr. Darden for his hard work.

Mr. Darden presented a scope of services for the Jonesville waterline extension and the Hwy 601 waterline projects at a cost of \$200,000.

Commissioner comments

Commissioner Phillips reminded the Board about the jail meeting today at 1:00. She suggested waiting on fixing the air condition until later so we can evaluate where we are on a new jail.

Commissioner Phillips informed the Board about the State Public Health meeting she attended in Raleigh.

Commissioner Swaim informed the Board that Dwight Morris with Smart Start is leaving. He complimented Mr. Morris on a job well done.***Commissioner Swaim made a motion to do an accommodation letter for Mr. Morris. Commissioner Phillips seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Commissioner Sneed stated Tom Helms, Major Widener, Sheriff Cain and himself visited jails in Sparta, Ashe and Watauga Counties. He commented that the Yadkin County jail is too small and obsolete, but the decision on what to do is still up in the air. He asked Major Widener about the bullpens.

Major Widener stated they have received the design and bid figures and now are waiting on the approval of the Judge, and then it will be brought before the Board for approval.

Commissioner Sneed stated the initial cost of the project was \$300,000 and now the bids have come closer to \$48,900. The bullpens will be moved to the eastside of the courthouse.

Commissioner Casstevens questioned the dispute over the payment for the plumbing work at the jail.

Commissioner Phillips stated the work was not authorized and nor budgeted.

Commissioner Sneed discussed weekend offenders and the backlog of time to be served. The Judge commented that if the time is not served soon, he will put those people in jail fulltime.

Chairman Wooten shared a thank you card from the family of Raymond Davis.

Chairman Wooten inquired about a weekly report from the Sheriff's office regarding population of the jail.

The Board directed Mr. Williams to work with the Sheriff on getting this report.

Chairman Wooten suggested looking at the possibility of renovating or enlarging the current jail. He also suggested having a public hearing to allow the public to express their opinions on the jail.

Chairman Wooten stated the budget needed to be finalized.

Commissioner Phillips stated she would take the requests back to the Jail Committee.

Manager

Mr. Williams stated he is working on roof issues and audit issues. He also reminded the Board of the jail meeting at 1:00.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to recess the meeting until 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Swaim seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Commissioner Casstevens did not return to the meeting.

Chairman Wooten called the meeting back to order and turned the meeting over to Steve Allen, Solution for Local Governments.

Others present: Roy Douglas, Tom Kilby, Robin Howell, Major Widener and Tom Helms (Jail Committee members)

Jail-report

Mr. Allen presented a comprehensive study for Yadkin County's jail. He stated there would be three phases; needs assessment, facility program and a site master plan. Mr. Allen presented pictures of the jail and discussed the current conditions.

Mr. Allen asked who thought a new jail was not needed?

Tom Whepley, citizen, responded that a new jail was not needed and suggested we just stack them up.

Mr. Allen discussed the safety of the jail employees and how they deserve to work in a safe environment with good working conditions. He asked if Yadkin County wanted to continue to throw money away or build a new jail?

Chairman Wooten thanked Mr. Allen for the presentation and asked if the current jail could be renovated.

Mr. Allen responded no, because the conditions are too bad.

Mr. Allen discussed the ADP (average daily population) and how new laws will effect the ADP.

Robin Howell, Pretrial Release Program, stated that federal cases in Yadkin County are increasing and causing the average daily stay to increase at the jail.

Mr. Allen discussed population and demographics for Yadkin County.

Mr. Allen informed the Board that a brick and mortar jail with 61 beds would cost approximately \$6 million. He suggested the Board proceed with a facility program with more details.

Chairman Wooten asked for a break.

Chairman Wooten stated recently some numbers from school administrators indicated the current population around 42,000.

Mr. Williams stated the county is formally and informally promoting growth.

Commissioner Phillip stated that a new facility is needed with approximately 60 beds. She also stated a location needs to be found to build the facility

Commissioner Sneed stated he had five potential sites.

Mr. Allen stated he could have Phase II ready by October 26th with such information as what would it take to build a 60 bed facility and other issues.

Commissioner Phillips questioned a Public Safety Center. She also questioned using the UNIFI building.

Other

Attorney Graham handed out a tax collection report.

Ms. Vestal informed the Board that the water usage on Hwy 601 would be double this month due to flushing the lines.

Adjournment

***Commissioner Swaim made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 4-0.**

Melinda Vestal, CMC
Clerk to the Board